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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Special Branch S-2, Station 33
Date 15/2/33

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. File No. REGISTRY.

No. D 4493

Subject (in full) Further report regarding Mrs. Helen Kathleen, or Cattleen
or Katzen-Ellenbojen.

Made by and Forwarded by D.S.I. Everest.

Mrs Helen Kathleen (or Cattleen) returned to Shanghai on February 5, 1933, on the s.s. "Gange" accompanied by her ten year old daughter. She resided at the Palace Hotel for a few days and is now residing at No. 9 Rue Pottier.

It is rumoured that Mrs. Kathleen is the mistress of the Netherlands Minister to China and that she is a divorcee formerly known as Mrs. Katzen-Ellenbojen

Other information to the effect that her brother-in-law, Ellenbojen, was recently convicted in Berlin in connection with a series of frauds committed there is unconfirmed.

Although Mrs. Kathleen is known to converse freely on matters relating to Soviet Russia and Communism there is nothing in her behaviour or associations which might support the supposition that she is a Communist or a Soviet Agent.

D. S. I.

D. S. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

File

15:2:33.

Ellen Kathleen has written a book called Making Studios which is in the library at 15:2:50

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Special Branch S. 2.

Station,

REPORT

Date December 24, 1932.

Subject (in full) Enquiry regarding Mrs Helen Kathleen (or Kathleen).

Made by *and*

Forwarded by *D. S. I.*

Discreet enquiries reveal that Mrs Helen Kathleen arrived in China about January 1932. Since her arrival she has resided in Peking and is known to be a keen student of Chinese life in general. Although not regarded as an experienced journalist she writes on Chinese domestic affairs and several articles from her pen have been published in Berlin newspapers. She is an Austrian by birth and is known at the local German Consulate where she is reputed to be a person of good standing.

Arriving in Shanghai from Peking on September 22, 1932, she engaged a room (No. 405) at the Palace Hotel and resided there until November 7, when she sailed for Venice on the Lloyd Triestino steamer "Conte Verdi". Whilst in Shanghai she conversed freely with hotel clerks and such people and stated she was proceeding to Europe to bring back her youngest daughter, age two, who was then in Vienna.

It has been ascertained from the local office of the Lloyd Triestino that Mrs Kathleen has booked a return passage on the s.s. "Gange" which is due to leave Venice on January 11, 1933, and that her present accommodation address is care of her father - Dr. Rosenberg, Kurfuerstenstrasse 127, Berlin W-67.

D. S. I.

D. S. I.

Officer i/o Special Branch.

Telegraphic
Address:
PALACE
BOMBAY.

TAJ MAHAL HOTEL

Telephones
No 20296
No 23314
No 24010

Bombay. Nov. 21, 1932

My dear Givens,

With further reference to the lady, you will see by her card, which I enclose, that I spelled her name wrongly. Although she went to Europe in the "economic second class," which is practically steerage, she gives her Berlin address as the Eden hotel, which is the most expensive hotel there.

She said during a subsequent conversation that she has had an offer from T.V. Soong to go to Nanking on her return to China and "reorganise" some of the government departments by introducing card indexes, a modern filing system. She expects to take a flat in Shanghai when this work is finished.

Altogether a curious young woman.

*By. Ream file
Wg*

C O P Y

S.S. Conte Verde,
Colombo-Bombay,
19th November 1932.

We have a woman passenger in the second class from Shanghai who is rather interesting. I daresay you know all about her if she comes within the category of suspects but as I have heard certain comments abouts her it will do no harm in any case to bring her to your notice.

The captain tells me that her name is Helen Kathleen, the latter being her family name, and that she is of Austrian nationality. I questioned the curious spelling of her family name but he assures me that it is correct. She is evidently a Jewess, age uncertain, but probably between 25 and 30, with brown hair which was originally henna and is now turning darker at the roots, large eyes which are very far apart, and she is good looking in a voluptuous way. She speaks French and German fluently.

The captain said she wished to meet me, and asked if I would join them after dinner three nights ago. The lady explained that she had been sitting in the Cathay lounge shortly before I sailed, in company with M. Barde, Havas' principal correspondent in Shanghai, whom I met in the Ruhr in 1923. I spoke to Barde on this occasion, and he apparently told her to try to make my acquaintance during the voyage. Her reason for doing this, she said, was that she also did journalistic work. She had been living in Peking for more than a year and sending correspondence to the Berlin "Aftenblatt." I found she was only an amateur who had never done any writing until she came to China, and it was impossible to get any further information regarding her presence in Peking, except that she liked China, and was interested in "the study of economics and political affairs." She said she had been employed for some time in "reorganising" the affairs of the Netherlands legations" - which struck me as a very curious occupation for an Austrian. She is now going to Europe to remain until February, ostensibly to bring back her youngest daughter, aged two. She said she had an older girl aged eight. No mention of a husband.

She brought the conversation around to communism several times during the two hours the captain and I sat with her. I had the impression that she wanted to convince us she was anti-communist, yet was very interested in Russia and in touch with the movement in China. She mentioned a Russian named, I think, Kishin, or Kish, a writer, who spent some months in Peking and Shanghai, and with whom she had been very friendly. She said she did not agree with Kishin's view that China was about to "go red". She also said that a certain best shop in the Hongkong Hotel, the name of which I cannot recall, but which began with "H", was a secret headquarters for communist agents. She had been there a good many times and met "interesting" people--I believe Chinese. During her stay in Shanghai she lived at the Palace Hotel.

I formed my own opinion of the lady when I was first
told of her capture, but don't know of anything about
her now. I don't know if she is still in the
country or if she has been released. I don't know
if she is still in the country or if she has been released.